

## Fish, Wildlife & Parks

### **Budget Development**

- FWP spends its money two ways: **Operations** for the day-to-day management of Montana's fish, wildlife, and parks resources. **Capital** for major repair and maintenance of FWP properties, for renovation and construction of facilities, and to protect, enhance, and acquire critical habitats.
- These illustrations show how FWP will be funded **if** our budget proposal is approved by the legislature as requested. FWP must obtain legislative authorization to spend any of the funds available from these sources.
- General License dollars fund just over 50% of the agency's budget. As requested by the executive, FWP has developed a long-term plan to sustain the balance of this fund until the 2011 session, when the agency will request a fee increase designed to establish a structurally balanced budget.

### **FY2008/09 Budget Highlights**

- Our budget request supports the Governor's initiative to acquire fishing access sites and state parks that will preserve the Montana way of life for generations to come.
- For the first time, FWP will be requesting General Fund authority to support programs such as State Wildlife Grants that benefit all Montanans.
- Commercial use guidelines approved by the FWP Commission will generate revenue to fund a river recreation management program that will preserve the quality of river recreation that is so vital to Montana citizens, visitors, and the state's tourism economy.
- The budget request includes funding to ensure an effective stewardship program aimed at securing the multiple benefits for sportsmen and landowners that FWP's investment in conservation easements was intended to provide. A portion of the funding for this program will be redirected from current operations.
- The budget will address investigative shortfalls by focusing on commercialized wildlife crimes and protecting our trophy wildlife and fish populations – our public's most treasured resources.
- The expertise required to manage historic properties properly and the significance of these resources to Montana's heritage has been addressed in a request for additional staff and maintenance funding.